



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**GOVERNOR ROBERT L. TAYLOR
PAPERS
Second Term
(1897-1899)

GP 31**

Processed by:

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INTRODUCTION

This finding aid covers the papers of Tennessee Governor Robert Love Taylor's second administration, 1897-1899. A collection of his papers from his first administration, 1887-1891, are also in the holdings of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, located on the second stack, 9569-A-9570-E. The papers covered in this finding aid are arranged by series as follows: Correspondence, which is arranged alphabetically, then chronologically; Reports from Agency and Department Heads, arranged in no particular order; Applications and Recommendations; General Petitions; and Petitions for Pardon from state prisons, which are arranged in alphabetical/chronological order and constitute a large portion of the collection.

The collection was reprocessed in 1995 because originally the collection was processed and stored loosely (which caused the folders to bend), in 61 Hollinger boxes in file folders that were not acid-free. These folders were replaced with acid-free folders and the files were compressed into 35 Hollinger boxes, which provide better support for the materials. During reprocessing all staples, metal fasteners, cellophane, and other non-archival materials were removed. Documents in boxes 1 through 7 have been cleaned with "Absorene" cleaner. There are no restrictions on the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert Love Taylor

Robert Love Taylor was born in Happy Valley, Tennessee, in 1850, the son of Nathaniel Green and Emmeline Haynes Taylor. His father was a former congressman and his uncle was Confederate Senator Landon Carter Haynes. He attended Buffalo Institute, now Milligan College. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1878. He moved to Jonesborough and began to read law in the office of Judge S. J. Kirkpatrick. A year later he won the First Congressional District seat running as a Democrat in a predominantly Republican district. Defeated for re-election, he returned to the private law practice. In 1885 he was appointed Federal Pension Agent in Knoxville.

In 1886, "Our Bob" was the outstanding young leader of the farm element of the Democratic Party. The Republican Party, hoping to profit from a split in the Democratic Party and to prevent the uniting of these factions under Robert Taylor, nominated his brother Alfred for Governor. The Democrats nominated Robert, and the scene was set for one of the most unusual political campaigns in the state's history. Called the "War of the Roses," the campaign was less a battle of issues than a contest of entertainment. Robert won the election becoming Governor in 1888. The major accomplishments of his administration were equalizing the tax burden, prison reform, improvement of the educational system, and development of the state's natural resources.

Taylor went on a series of lecture tours after his second term as governor, part of the time with his brother, and was enthusiastically received across the nation. He was drafted to run for a third term as governor, and won in 1897. In 1906 he was elected to the United States Senate and served there until his death on March 31, 1912. Burial took place in Knoxville, Tennessee.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Governor Robert L. Taylor Papers, 1897-1899, are contained in 35 Hollinger boxes and consist of official records from his second administration. The collection is arranged by the following series: General Correspondence, boxes 1-2, arranged alphabetically then chronologically; Subject Files, box 3; Reports, boxes 3-4; Applications and Recommendations, boxes 5-19; Petitions, box 21; and Petitions and Pardons, boxes 22-35.

Interesting items within the Subject Files (box 3) include documents pertaining to the newly created Tennessee Railroad Commission naming the commissioner from each Grand Division of the state found in folder 3; folder 7 includes 10 lawsuits, with item 7 being a verdict and final opinion of the Supreme Court of Tennessee; folder 8 pertains to topics to be brought up before the legislature. Folder 10 is a miscellaneous assortment that includes the list of charter members in the Knoxville Gold Club. In the same folder can be found signed enlistment papers of 34 National Guard soldiers dated May 7, 1898. Folder 12 titled, "Tennessee Military Regiments," consists of some 65 pieces of correspondence pertaining to requests for promotions and resignations of commissions. Folder 19 contains documents regarding the propriety of calling an extra session of the Legislature to facilitate sanitary improvements in Memphis to protect the city from impending danger of a Yellow Fever epidemic.

Box 4, Reports, contains annual and biennial reports starting with the State Geologist's report in folder 1. This report describes an important phosphate discovery in Maury County. Folder 2 refers to the biennial report of the Ladies Hermitage Association which is mostly financial in nature. Mention is made of the amount paid out for the care of Andrew Jackson's house servant, "Uncle Alfred." Folders 5-7 include regular reports from 73 county school superintendents for 1897 through 1898.

The largest portion of this collection is made up of Applications and Recommendations, and Petitions for Pardon. Applications and Recommendations begin with box 5 and conclude at box 19. Within these folders will be found applications for Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner positions in Governor Taylor's new administration. Also included are several requests for jobs at the upcoming Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897.

General Petitions are found in box 21, folder 1 & 2. Folder 1 contains petitions by members of the 2nd Tennessee Regiment requesting to be mustered out of service following the Spanish American War. The last series, Petitions for Pardon (from Tennessee State prisons), begins in folder 3, box 21, and is arranged alphabetically, then chronologically.

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

Correspondence--General

1	A-Z	1896
2	A-B	1897
3	C	1897
4	D	1897
5	E-F	1897
6	G	1897
7	H	1897
8	I-K	1897
9	L	1897
10	M	1897
11	N-Q	1897
12	R	1897
13	S	1897
14	T	1897
15	U-Z	1897

Box 2

Correspondence--General

1	A-Z (outgoing)	1898
2	A-B	1898
3	C-D	1898
4	E-G	1898
5	H-J	1898
6	K-L	1898
7	M	1898
8	N-O	1898
9	P-R	1898
10	S	1898
11	T	1898
12	U-Z	1898
13	A-Z	1899
14	Letter Book	1898
15	Letter Book	1898

Box 3

Subject File

- 1 Commissioner of Election 1897
- 2 Election of U.S. Senator by Joint Convention 1898
- 3 Holston Valley Railroad Company 1897

- 4 Insurance Commissioner of the State of Tennessee 1898
- 5 Invitations to speak 1897-1898
- 6 King, H. Clay, Col. 1898
- 7 Lawsuits 1897
 1. Carter Dunbar & Company v. McClure Lucas & Company
 2. Fulcher & Company v. State of Tennessee
 3. W.H. House v. A.A. Williams
 4. Kansas City, Memphis Railroad and Bridge Company, an injunction
 5. S.J. Keith, Davidson County against W.B. Bate, J.W. Thomas; Davidson County, and P.P. Pickard, Humphries County, Tennessee defendants
 6. State of Tennessee v. Claiborne County Election Commissioners
 7. State of Tennessee v. Monroe Black
 8. George Gillet v. State of Tennessee
 9. Isaac Weil v. R.L. Taylor, Governor of Tennessee
 10. E.B. Craig and Jas. A. Harris, Funding Board
- 8 Legislature, Extra Session 1897
- 9 Memorials and Resolutions, Memphis and Shelby County 1897
- 10 Miscellaneous 1896-1897
 1. Charter Members, Gold Club, Knoxville, Tennessee
 2. Letter--unsigned and undated
 3. State Senator, for
 4. National Guard of Tennessee 1897
 5. Newspaper clipping (photo copy) - "Fine Tribute to Robert L. Taylor"
Nashville Banner, 2-24-13 1913
- 11 Personal Accounts 1898
- 12 Tennessee Military Regiments 1897-1899
- 13 Prison Regulations 1897
- 14 Proclamations and Resolutions 1897-1898
- 15 Protests to Governor Taylor 1899
- 16 Staff of Governor, Official 1897
- 17 Tennessee and Virginia State Line 1898
- 18 Trial Transcript of E.H. Neimeyer 1897
- 19 Yellow Fever in Memphis 1897
- 20 Coal Oil Inspector 1897-1898

Microfilm Roll #2

- 21 Financial 1897
- 22 Financial 1898

Box 4

Reports

- 1 Geologist, State 1897
- 2 Ladies Hermitage Association 1897

- 3 Labor, Statistics and Mines 1898
- 4 Penitentiary, Joint Committee 1897
- 5 Superintendent of Schools, Anderson County 1897-1898
- 6 Superintendent of Schools, Bedford, Benton, Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley Counties 1897-1898
- 7 Superintendent of Schools, Campbell, Cannon, Carroll, Cheatham, Chester, Claiborne, Cocke, Coffee, Cumberland Counties 1897-1898
- 8 Superintendent of Schools, Davidson, Decatur, DeKalb, Dickson Counties 1897-1898
- 9 Superintendent of Schools, Franklin, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Grundy Counties 1897-1898
- 10 Superintendent of Schools, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardeman, Hardin, Hawkins, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Humphrey Counties 1897-1898
- 11 Superintendent of Schools, James, Jefferson, Knox Counties 1897-1898
- 12 Superintendent of Schools, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Loudon Counties 1897-1898
- 13 Superintendent of Schools, Macon, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Maury, McMinn, McNairy, Meigs, Monroe, Montgomery, Moore, Morgan Counties 1897-1898
- 14 Superintendent of Schools, Obion, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Polk Counties 1897-1898
- 15 Superintendent of Schools, Rhea, Roane, Robertson, Rutherford Counties 1897-1898
- 16 Superintendent of Schools, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Shelby, Sumner Counties 1897-1898
- 17 Superintendent of Schools, Union, VanBuren, Washington, Wayne, Weakley, Wilson Counties 1897-1898

Box 5

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Adjutant General 1896
- 2 Agriculture, Commissioner of 1896
- 3 Coal Oil Inspector, January 1-January 30, 1896
- 4 Coal Oil Inspector, November 1-November 12, 1896
- 5 Coal Oil Inspector, November 13-November 18, 1896
- 6 Coal Oil Inspector, November 19-November 23, 1896
- 7 Coal Oil Inspector, November 24-November 30, 1896
- 8 Commissary at Prison 1896

Box 6

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Coal Oil Inspector, December 1-December 8, 1896
- 2 Coal Oil Inspector, December 9-December 26, 1896
- 3 Coal Oil Inspector, December 27-December 31, 1896
- 4 Gardener of the Capitol Grounds 1896
- 5 Governor's Staff, Member of 1896

- 6 Guard for State Prison 1896
- 7 Janitor of State Capitol 1896
- 8 Labor, Commissioner of, November 1896
- 9 Labor, Commissioner of, December 1896
- 10 Mine Inspector 1896
- 11 Pharmacy, State Board of 1896
- 12 Physician, State Prison 1896

Box 7

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Prison, Commissioner of 1896
- 2 Secretary to the Governor 1896
- 3 Sheriff 1896

Microfilm Roll #3

- 4 Superintendent of State Capitol, January 1- November 10, 1896
- 5 Superintendent of State Capitol, November 11- November 17, 1896
- 6 Superintendent of State Capitol, November 18- November 21, 1896
- 7 Superintendent of State Capitol, November 22- November 30, 1896
- 8 Superintendent of State Capitol, December 1- December 8, 1896

Box 8

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Superintendent of State Capitol, December 9- December 14, 1896
- 2 Superintendent of State Capitol, December 15- December 31, 1896
- 3 Superintendent of Prison, November 1- November 14, 1896
- 4 Superintendent of Prison, November 15- November 30, 1896
- 5 Superintendent of Prison, December 1- December 16, 1896
- 6 Superintendent of Prison, December 17- December 31, 1896

Box 9

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Superintendent of Public Instructions, November 1- November 31, 1896
- 2 Superintendent of Public Instructions, December 1- December 14, 1896
- 3 Superintendent of Public Instructions, December 15- December 30, 1896
- 4 Warden at State Prison, January 1- November 10, 1896
- 5 Warden at State Prison, November 11- November 20, 1896
- 6 Warden at State Prison, November 21- November 30, 1896

Box 10

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Warden at State Prison, December 1- December 10, 1896
- 2 Warden at State Prison, December 11- December 21, 1896

Microfilm Roll #4

- 3 Warden at State Prison, December 22- December 31, 1896
- 4 Watchman, State Capitol, November 11- November 20, 1896
- 5 Watchman, State Capitol, November 21- December 10, 1896
- 6 General Applications and Recommendations, January 1- December 10, 1896
- 7 General Applications and Recommendations, December 11- December 31, 1896

Box 11**Applications and Recommendations**

- 1 Agriculture, Commissioner of 1897-1898
- 2 Attorney for State of Tennessee 1897-1898
- 3 Chaplain at Prison 1897
- 4 Chaplain at Prison 1898
- 5 Coal Oil Inspector, January 1- January 20, 1897
- 6 Coal Oil Inspector, January 21- January 31, 1897
- 7 Coal Oil Inspector, February 1- March 31, 1897
- 8 Coal Oil Inspector, April 1- May 31, 1897
- 9 Coal Oil Inspector, June 1- December 31, 1897
- 10 Coal Oil Inspector 1898
- 11 Coal Weightman 1897
- 12 Deeds, Commissioner of, 1897
- 13 Dental Examiner, Board of 1897
- 14 Election Commissioners 1897-1898
- 15 Engineer, State Capitol 1897
- 16 Gardener, State Capitol 1897
- 17 Gatekeeper 1897

Box 12**Applications and Recommendations**

- 1 Guard for State Prison 1897-1898
- 2 Health, Board of 1897
- 3 Janitor, State Prison 1897
- 4 Judge, January 1-July 31, 1897
- 5 Judge, August 1-December 31, 1897
- 6 Labor, Commissioner of 1896-1897
- 7 Librarian, State 1898
- 8 Medical Examiner 1897
- 9 Military Service, promotions in, January-June, 1898
- 10 Military Service, promotions in, July-August, 1898

Box 13

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Military Service, promotions in, September 1- September 15, 1898
- 2 Military Service, promotions in, September 16- September 30, 1898
- 3 Military Service, promotions in, October-December, 1898
- 4 Mine Inspector 1897
- 5 Pension Examiners 1897
- 6 Physician, State Prison, January-March, 1897
- 7 Physician, State Prison, April-December, 1897

Microfilm Roll #5

- 8 Police Commissioner, January-February, 1897
- 9 Police Commissioner, March, 1897

Box 14

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Police Commissioner, April, 1897
- 2 Police Commissioner, May-December, 1897
- 3 Prison Commissioner, January-March, 1897
- 4 Prison Commissioner, April, 1897
- 5 Prison Commissioner, May, 1897
- 6 Prison Commissioner, June-December, 1897
- 7 Public Works, Board of, January, 1897

Box 15

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Public Works, Board of, February-March, 1897
- 2 Registration Commissioner 1898
- 3 Railroad Commissioner, January-March, 1897
- 4 Railroad Commissioner, April 1-April 8, 1897
- 5 Railroad Commissioner, April 9-April 20, 1897
- 6 Railroad Commissioner, April 21-April 30, 1897
- 7 Railroad Commissioner, May-December, 1897

Box 16

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Secretary, Private 1897
- 2 Senator, United States 1897
- 3 Sheriff 1897
- 4 Steward, Hospital and Prison 1897
- 5 Superintendent of Mines 1897
- 6 Superintendent of State Capitol, January 1-5, 1897
- 7 Superintendent of State Capitol, January 6-31, 1897

- 8 Superintendent of State Capitol, February-March, 1897
- 9 Superintendent of State Capitol, April-December, 1897
- 10 Superintendent of Prisons 1897
- 11 Superintendent of Public Instructions 1897
- 12 Surgeon, Military Service 1897

Box 17

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Transportation Agent 1897
- 2 Trustee of East and West Tennessee Insane Asylum 1897
- 3 Warden for State Prison, January 1-January 31, 1897
- 4 Warden for State Prison, February 1-February 10, 1897
- 5 Warden for State Prison, February 11-February 29, 1897

Microfilm Roll #6

- 6 Warden for State Prison, March, 1897
- 7 Warden for State Prison, April, 1897
- 8 Warden for State Prison, May, 1897

Box 18

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 Warden for State Prison, June, 1897
- 2 Warden for State Prison, July, 1897
- 3 Warden for State Prison, August-December, 1897
- 4 Watchman, January 1-January 19, 1897
- 5 Watchman, January 20-January 31, 1897
- 6 Watchman, February, 1897
- 7 Watchman, March, 1897
- 8 Watchman, April, 1897
- 9 Watchman, May-June, 1897
- 10 Watchman, July, 1897
- 11 Watchman, August-November, 1897
- 12 Yardman at State Prison, 1897

Box 19

Applications and Recommendations

- 1 West Tennessee Asylum, Commissioner of 1897
- 2 General, January, 1897
- 3 General, February, 1897
- 4 General, March, 1897
- 5 General, April, 1897

- 6 General, May, 1897
- 7 General, June-August, 1897
- 8 General, September-December, 1898

Box 20

- 1 Applications for reward 1898
- 2 Extraditions Papers 1897-1898
- 3 Requisitions 1897-1898
- 4 Requisitions 1897-1898

Box 21

Petitions

- 1 Muster our 2nd Tennessee Regiment 1898
- 2 S. J. Keith, Davidson County 1897
J. T. Williams, Chattanooga, TN
- 3 Petitions for Pardon - A 1897
- 4 Petitions for Pardon - B 1897

Microfilm Roll #7

- 5 Petitions for Pardon - B 1897
- 6 Petitions for Pardon - B 1897

Box 22

Petitions for Pardon

- 1 C 1897
- 2 C 1897
- 3 D 1897
- 4 E 1897

Box 23

Petitions for Pardon

- 1 F 1897
- 2 F 1897
- 3 G 1897
- 4 H 1897
- 5 H 1897

Box 24

Petitions for Pardon

- 1 H 1897
- 2 H 1897
- 3 H 1897

4 I 1897
5 J 1897

Microfilm Roll #8

6 K 1897

Box 25

Petitions for Pardon

1 L 1897
2 M 1897
3 M 1897
4 M 1897
5 M 1897

Box 26

Petitions for Pardon

1 N 1897
2 O 1897
3 P 1897
4 P-Q 1897
5 R 1897
6 R 1897

Box 27

Petitions for Pardon

1 S 1897
2 S 1897
3 S 1897
4 T 1897

Microfilm Roll #9

Box 28

Petitions for Pardon

1 V 1897
2 W 1897
3 W 1897
4 W 1897
5 W 1897
6 Y 1897

Box 29

Petitions for Pardon

- 1 A 1898
- 2 B 1898
- 3 B 1898
- 4 B 1898
- 5 C 1898

Box 30

Petitions for Pardon

- 1 C 1898
- 2 C 1898
- 3 D 1898
- 4 E 1898
- 5 F 1898
- 6 G 1898

Box 31

Petitions for Pardon

- 1 H 1898

Microfilm Roll #10

- 2 H 1898
- 3 H 1898
- 4 J 1898
- 5 K 1898

Box 32

Petitions for Pardon

- 1 L 1898
- 2 M 1898
- 3 M 1898
- 4 Mc 1898
- 5 Mc 1898

Box 33

Petitions for Pardon

- 1 N 1898
- 2 N 1898
- 3 O 1898
- 4 P-Q 1898
- 5 R 1898

Microfilm Roll #11

6 R 1898

Box 34**Petitions for Pardon**

1 S 1898

2 S 1898

3 T-V 1898

4 W 1898

5 W 1898

Box 35**Petitions for Pardon**

1 A-C 1899

2 D-F 1899

3 G-K 1899

4 L-R 1899

5 S-W 1899